



U.S. Senator Judd Gregg, Chairman

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

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HELP Committee Higher Education Hearing Focuses on Access

Washington, DC — Chairman Judd Gregg (R-NH) and members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions convened for a hearing today focused on the upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Senators and witnesses discussed innovative ways to control costs and keep higher education accessible and affordable at the first hearing of the year on the subject.

“The upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act presents Congress with an opportunity to build on existing achievements, and improve the student aid programs so that they will continue to serve our nation’s college students into the future,” said Chairman Gregg.

“But of course, whether someone has access to a college education depends on many factors, not just federal financial assistance. While tuition goes up and up, and more and more students are priced out of a college education, colleges are finding it hard to achieve efficiencies in the delivery of education. Achieving greater efficiency needs to become a priority for colleges, so that a quality postsecondary education is available to everyone,” said Chairman Gregg.

“Over the course of a lifetime, the average college graduate earns about \$1 million more than someone with only a high school diploma. Our nation’s productivity and quality of life benefit tremendously from having large numbers of college graduates,” said Chairman Gregg.

“This hearing represents the beginning of the HEA reauthorization process here in the Senate. As we move toward reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, it is my hope that we can work in a bipartisan way to promote access to post secondary education. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides toward this goal,” said Chairman Gregg.

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